

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3899

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2002

Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma (for himself and Mrs. EMERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period of time to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare Program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Seniors Mental Health
5 Access Improvement Act of 2002”.

1 **SEC. 2. COVERAGE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST**
 2 **SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR**
 3 **SERVICES UNDER PART B OF THE MEDICARE**
 4 **PROGRAM.**

5 (a) COVERAGE OF SERVICES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the
 7 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)) is
 8 amended—

9 (A) in subparagraph (U), by striking
 10 “and” after the semicolon at the end;

11 (B) in subparagraph (V)(iii), by inserting
 12 “and” after the semicolon at the end; and

13 (C) by adding at the end the following new
 14 subparagraph:

15 “(W) marriage and family therapist services (as
 16 defined in subsection (ww)(1)) and mental health
 17 counselor services (as defined in subsection
 18 (ww)(3));”.

19 (2) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1861 of such Act
 20 (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended by adding at the end
 21 the following new subsection:

22 “Marriage and Family Therapist Services; Marriage and
 23 Family Therapist; Mental Health Counselor Serv-
 24 ices; Mental Health Counselor

25 “(ww)(1) The term ‘marriage and family therapist
 26 services’ means services performed by a marriage and

1 family therapist (as defined in paragraph (2)) for the diag-
2 nosis and treatment of mental illnesses, which the mar-
3 riage and family therapist is legally authorized to perform
4 under State law (or the State regulatory mechanism pro-
5 vided by State law) of the State in which such services
6 are performed, as would otherwise be covered if furnished
7 by a physician or as an incident to a physician's profes-
8 sional service, but only if no facility or other provider
9 charges or is paid any amounts with respect to the fur-
10 nishing of such services.

11 “(2) The term ‘marriage and family therapist’ means
12 an individual who—

13 “(A) possesses a master’s or doctoral degree
14 which qualifies for licensure or certification as a
15 marriage and family therapist pursuant to State
16 law;

17 “(B) after obtaining such degree has performed
18 at least 2 years of clinical supervised experience in
19 marriage and family therapy; and

20 “(C) in the case of an individual performing
21 services in a State that provides for licensure or cer-
22 tification of marriage and family therapists, is li-
23 censed or certified as a marriage and family thera-
24 pist in such State.

1 “(3) The term ‘mental health counselor services’
2 means services performed by a mental health counselor (as
3 defined in paragraph (2)) for the diagnosis and treatment
4 of mental illnesses which the mental health counselor is
5 legally authorized to perform under State law (or the
6 State regulatory mechanism provided by the State law) of
7 the State in which such services are performed, as would
8 otherwise be covered if furnished by a physician or as inci-
9 dent to a physician’s professional service, but only if no
10 facility or other provider charges or is paid any amounts
11 with respect to the furnishing of such services.

12 “(4) The term ‘mental health counselor’ means an
13 individual who—

14 “(A) possesses a master’s or doctor’s degree in
15 mental health counseling or a related field;

16 “(B) after obtaining such a degree has per-
17 formed at least 2 years of supervised mental health
18 counselor practice; and

19 “(C) in the case of an individual performing
20 services in a State that provides for licensure or cer-
21 tification of mental health counselors or professional
22 counselors, is licensed or certified as a mental health
23 counselor or professional counselor in such State.”.

24 (3) PROVISION FOR PAYMENT UNDER PART
25 B.—Section 1832(a)(2)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C.

1 1395k(a)(2)(B)) is amended by adding at the end
2 the following new clause:

3 “(v) marriage and family therapist
4 services and mental health counselor serv-
5 ices;”.

6 (4) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—Section 1833(a)(1)
7 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)) is amended—

8 (A) by striking “and (U)” and inserting
9 “(U)”; and

10 (B) by inserting before the semicolon at
11 the end the following: “, and (V) with respect
12 to marriage and family therapist services and
13 mental health counselor services under section
14 1861(s)(2)(W), the amounts paid shall be 80
15 percent of the lesser of the actual charge for
16 the services or 75 percent of the amount deter-
17 mined for payment of a psychologist under
18 clause (L)”.

19 (5) EXCLUSION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
20 THERAPIST SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH COUN-
21 SELOR SERVICES FROM SKILLED NURSING FACILITY
22 PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM.—Section 1888(e)
23 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395yy(e)) is
24 amended—

1 (A) in paragraph (2)(A)(i)(II), by striking
2 “clauses (ii) and (iii)” and inserting “clauses
3 (ii) through (iv)”; and

4 (B) by adding at the end of paragraph
5 (2)(A) the following new clause:

6 “(iv) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN MEN-
7 TAL HEALTH SERVICES.—Services de-
8 scribed in this clause are marriage and
9 family therapist services (as defined in sec-
10 tion 1861(ww)(1)) and mental health coun-
11 selor services (as defined in section
12 1861(ww)(3)).”.

13 (6) INCLUSION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
14 THERAPISTS AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS AS
15 PRACTITIONERS FOR ASSIGNMENT OF CLAIMS.—Sec-
16 tion 1842(b)(18)(C) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
17 1395u(b)(18)(C)) is amended by adding at the end
18 the following new clauses:

19 “(vii) A marriage and family therapist (as de-
20 fined in section 1861(ww)(2)).

21 “(viii) A mental health counselor (as defined in
22 section 1861(ww)(4)).”.

23 (b) COVERAGE OF CERTAIN MENTAL HEALTH SERV-
24 ICES PROVIDED IN CERTAIN SETTINGS.—

1 (1) RURAL HEALTH CLINICS AND FEDERALLY
 2 QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.—Section
 3 1861(aa)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42
 4 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting “,
 5 by a marriage and family therapist (as defined in
 6 subsection (ww)(2)), by a mental health counselor
 7 (as defined in subsection (ww)(4)),” after “by a clin-
 8 ical psychologist (as defined by the Secretary)”.

9 (2) HOSPICE PROGRAMS.—Section
 10 1861(dd)(2)(B)(i)(III) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
 11 1395x(dd)(2)(B)(i)(III)) is amended by inserting “or
 12 a marriage and family therapist (as defined in sub-
 13 section (ww)(2))” after “social worker”.

14 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
 15 THERAPISTS TO DEVELOP DISCHARGE PLANS FOR POST-
 16 HOSPITAL SERVICES.—Section 1861(ee)(2)(G) of the So-
 17 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(ee)(2)(G)) is amended
 18 by inserting “marriage and family therapist (as defined
 19 in subsection (ww)(2)),” after “social worker,”.

20 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 21 this section shall apply with respect to services furnished
 22 on or after January 1, 2003.

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